

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph [0003] at pages 1 with the following version:

[0003] Boot liners generally comprise a sole forming the bottom portion of the boot and an upper part formed extending over the top of the sole so as to cover the foot and ankle of the wearer. The upper part has a rear portion for supporting the rear section of the ankle, and a pair of side parts that support the side sections of the ankle and are integrally formed with the rear portion. In the pair of side parts, the front ends are disposed separated from each other, and a slit is formed in the front section of the ankle. A tongue for supporting the front section of the ankle is fitted extending to the top in the bottom end of the slit (for example, see US ~~UK~~ Patent No. 5924218).

Please replace the paragraph [0004] at page 1 with the following version:

[0004] Examples of this type of conventional boot liner include those that further comprise a fastening mechanism for improving the perceived fit of the upper part on the foot. The fastening mechanism normally has a plurality of insertion elements disposed in the vicinity of the front end of the upper part at intervals in the vertical direction. Each insertion element is formed in a loop shape so that a shoelace or other such lace-shaped member can be inserted (for example, see US ~~UK~~ Patent No. 5937542).